

**SRI
LANKA
SITUATION
REPORT**

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SITUATION REPORT

A selection of recent reports from Sri Lankan newspapers, without comment. Readers are requested to form their own conclusions.

Note to Readers :

This issue of Situation Report was printed late due to inadequacy of funds. Although it is dated November 1, we have availed of the delay by incorporating more recent news reports published up to November 10.

Mystery over Chinese ship

The Sri Lankan navy was alerted last night to the unannounced arrival of a foreign vessel which had anchored off Colombo and maintained strict radio silence for more than 12 hours.

Only the funnel of the ship was visible to the port but vessels that passed it on the way reported that it carried the name 'Conghul' and was flying a Chinese flag.

The Port Pilot station alerted the navy last night after repeated attempts to establish radio contact with the ship failed. A Navy craft was due to inspect the vessel late last night an official said.

The ship had informed the Pilot Station that it was on its way to Canton when it was about 15 miles off the Lankan coast but had failed to respond to queries once it came within one and a half miles off the port officials said.

The 'Conghul' was not scheduled to visit Colombo and the mystery of its presence remained unsolved.

(Sun-1st November, 1986)

Police swoop in Colombo

Police yesterday took into custody more than 150 persons in the city of Colombo for alleged subversive activities in a four hour operation starting late on Friday night.

The persons were arrested due to their inability to explain their presence in the city, Police Chief Cyril Herath told 'Weekend'.

All city police stations were placed on a special alert and the army was deployed to man the entry points to Colombo in the special operation.

"It was a precaution to crackdown on subversive elements who may be seeking refuge in safe houses here" Mr. Herath explained.....

(Weekend - 2nd November, 1986)

Indian crackdown forecast

The leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) Velupillai Prabhakaran is expected to leave his base in India and return to Jaffna in the next few weeks because of a possible crackdown by Indian authorities.

Indian authorities are reported to have been embarrassed and angered by the LTTE announcement in Madras last week that it will announce a unilateral declaration of independence on January 1, 1987.

Over the last few months the LTTE has been ferrying men and material across the Palk Strait from India in order to strengthen its forces in the north and east and also fearing Indian counter action, highly reliable sources said.

The LTTE is also planning a show down with rival separatist groups in the north to clear the decks for UDI by which time it hopes to have asserted its supremacy in the Tamil separatist movement, the Sources said.....

(Sunday Observer. - 2nd November, 1986)

Gold in newspaper bundle

Five suspects including two Air Lanka employees were arrested by Customs yesterday in connection with an attempt to smuggle in gold biscuits worth Rs. 1,933,000 on Sunday night.

The gold biscuits hidden inside bundles of the International Herald Tribune papers flown in from Singapore in a Swissair flight were discovered at Colombo Airport. It was the second largest gold haul this year.

Among those taken into custody are the clearing agent and his son who had come to the airport to clear the newspapers.

Customs are checking the authenticity of the signatures on the clearing document of the newspaper consignment, officials said. They will also question the consignee of the newspapers and a former journalist.

The Journalist yesterday denied any involvement in the smuggling attempt.....

(Sun - 4th November, 1986)

Judge disallows amendment

High Court Judge, Colombo Mr T. Suntharalingam yesterday made order disallowing the application of the state to amend the indictment in the case against Father Aparanam Singarayer.

In this case Fr. Singarayer was charged in an amended indictment with having along with certain named persons harboured, concealed or in any manner hindered the apprehension of certain unknown persons who committed offences under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in respect of the attack on the Chavakachcheri police station on or about October 27, 1982, murder of a specified person and robbery of arms and ammunition.

The named persons were Fr. Samuel Thurairajah Jeyatillekerajah, Dr. Thurairajah William Jeyakularajah, Mutiah Nityanandan and Mrs. Nirmala Nityanandan.....

Mr. Bala Tampoe with Mr. I. F. Xavier and Mr. K. Alagarajah appeared for Fr. Singarayer.

(Daily New - 4th November, 1986)

Vijaya's Jaffna Visit

"It was my plan to come to Jaffna and pray at Nallur Kandasamy Kovil and conduct a series of political meetings, in the North, anyhow I did not hope that. I would be in your minds so soon. The people of the south are not aware of the conditions prevailing here. They are misinformed. I shall inform the real conditions the people in the south. The entire administration in the north is in the hands of the militants. The excesses of the security forces and damages caused by the security forces are not known there. I shall see that the true conditions prevailing in the North are heard in Parliament."

So said Mr. Vijaya Kumaranatunga chief of the Sri Lanka People's Party, when he addressed a large gathering of people assembled at the courtyard of Nallur Kandasamy Kovil last Monday evening.

Earlier Mr. Kumaranatunga and party who came in an armed motorcade of LTTE stripped their shirts washed their feet and attended a special poojah invoking the blessings of the deity of Nallur on Mr. Kumaranatunga.....

(The Island 4th - November, 1986)

SLAF man shoots corporal

A verdict of homicide was returned yesterday into the death of Cpl. Ranaweera Appuhamy, 37 who was a victim in Tuesday's shooting incident at the SLAF Base, Katunayake.

Continued on Page 7

(Continued from Page 2)

The inquest into the corporal's death was held before city Coroner C.A.S.E. Crispeyn.

Cpl. Appuhamy was shot dead on Tuesday night by SLAF volunteer Chandr:siri de Silva who committed suicide by shooting himself.

(Sun - 7th November, 1986)

They posed off as Muslims

Some 800 Sinhalese women posed off as Muslims to secure jobs in West Asia, and used forged passports to make the journey, a government investigation has revealed.

The fraud was carried out with the connivance of a group of Colombo travel agents and Immigration officers at the Colombo Airport, according to a confession by two arrested immigration officers, Weekend learns.

The two officers were caught while accepting a bribe of Rs. 2,000 to allow a Dubai-bound Sinhalese woman from Menikhera to leave the country on a passport carrying a Muslim name.

Subsequent investigations have revealed that at least 800 Muslim women who sought employment overseas through recruitment agents did not get their passports back, and that their places were taken by Sinhalese women, whose pictures replaced the originals in the passports. (Weekend - 9th November, 1986)

Light tanks for Army

The Sri Lanka Army is to buy a fleet of

light tanks, according to the 1987 budget estimates giving an indication of the government's seriousness in fighting terrorists.

The military declined to say from where they hoped to buy the tanks or what type they would be.

The tracked squadron together with two squadrons of armoured cars, for which provisions have also been made, will cost about Rs. 254 million, according to the estimates.

The Air Force will also get 12 armoured cars for which Rs. 8.6 million has been allocated.

The estimates also show a phenomenal increase in the expenditure for the Special Task Force which has risen from Rs. 51.6 million this year to Rs. 200 million for 1987, of which Rs. 20 million will be spent on weapons and special equipment.

(The Island - 9th November, 1986)

Miss Liyanage's detention **(Parliamentary report)**

Mr. Dinesh Gunewardena (MEP - Maharagama) said there were several persons who had been arrested on suspicion but kept in custody for a long time without being brought before the courts of law. He also alleged that such "political prisoners" were asked to sign a statement promising that they would not take part in politics as a condition of release. It would be better for those persons to be produced in a court without asking them to sign such statements.

Mr. Dew Gunasekera (CP - Kalawana) asked the National Security Minister to consider releasing Miss. Pulsari Liyanage who was under detention as soon as investigations were completed.

He said Miss Liyanage was an assistant lecturer in classics at the Kelaniya University and was the first educated Sinhala woman to be taken into custody for alleged subversive activities. She was being held in custody on the fourth floor of the CID and relations have been told that she would not be released until she broke down and confessed.

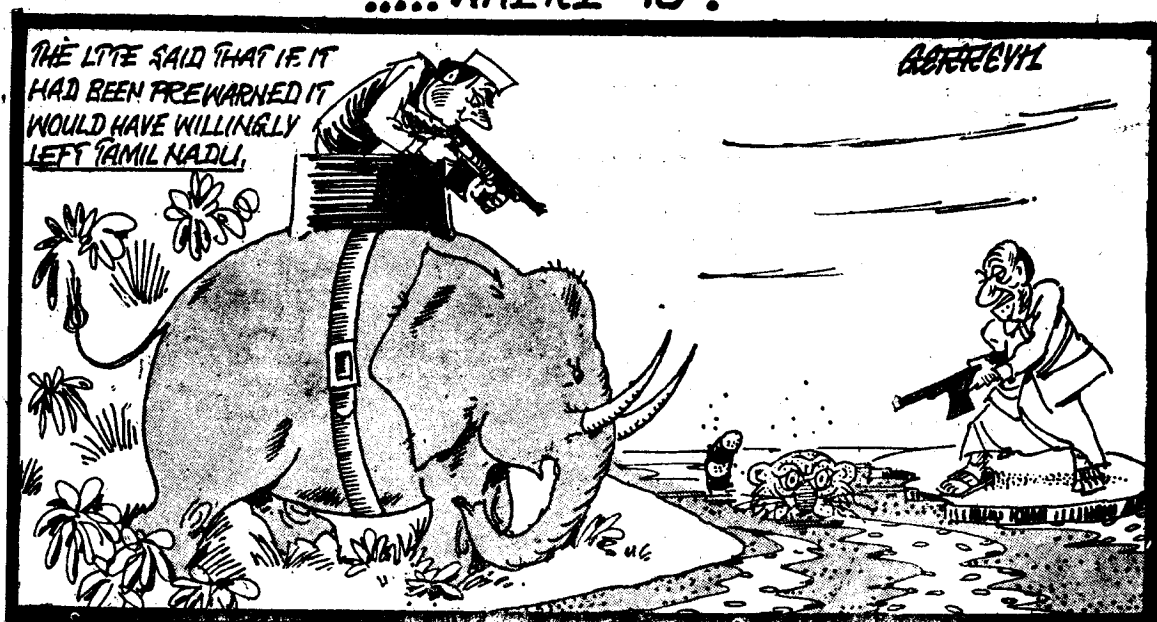
He was making an appeal to the Minister on behalf of the parents as Miss Liyanage had undergone an operation recently and was not in the best of health.

Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, replying said Miss Liyanage has been arrested on reasonable suspicion. When an arrest was made on suspicion, there need not be a prima facie case against the person arrested. This person was taken into custody on November 1, and held in the Slave Island police station. Investigations were made by the CID and such investigations often took a long time. Since this person was a lecturer and she may not disappear if released, he would look into the matter to afford her whatever relief was possible.

Regarding the question raised by the Member for Maharagama, he said he hoped the Member would not use that term "political prisoner" to all terrorists arrested because then they would be all called incorrectly political prisoners.....

(Daily News - 7th November, 1986)

..... WHERE TO ?



Obituaries

KANDIAH - Ponnampalam. Attorney-at-law. Husband of Rajeswary, father of Valli, Sri (U.S.A.). Cremation at Kanatte cemetery. 3 De Fonseka Place, Colombo-5.

SUBRAMANIAM - Kanakambikai (kamala). Wife of late M. Subramaniam (Dy. Ch. Acct. Rly.), mother of Subathra, Sumithra, Srikanthan. Saratha, Saroja (U.K) Manickavasakar, Shanthikumar (U.K.). Funeral 25th October. 23, 4th Cross Street, Jaffna.

CASINADER - Charles Brown. Husband of late Mildred, father of Bertram (Rtd. Asst. Com. Local Govt. Trinco). Prince (Principal. Methodist Central College, Batticala), Noble, (Acct.), Wesley (formerly Asst. Controller, Central Bank, presently Anstralia) and Kingsley (formerly staff Trinity College, presently Australia). Funeral Monday 27th. Oct. 26/1, Chapel Street, Batticaloa.

KANAGARAJAH - Sabapathy (Proctor & Notary), husband of Saraswathy, father of Subadhra. late Devika and Maheswary. Cremation 26th October. 69, Norris Canal Road, Colombo-10.

AMMAL - Rajalakshmy. Wife of J. Subramania Iyer. High priest, Sivan Kovil, Panankadu, Akkaraipattu. Cremation at Kanatte cemetery 13th October. 73, 1/1/ Vihare Lane, Colombo-6.

LEDCHUMIPPILLAI - Mrs. Kumarasamy. Wife of late Mr. Kumarasamy of Puttalai, Puloly. Mother of Kathirgamathan (Zimbabwe), Dr. Senathirajah (Australia), Jeganathan (Zambia), Kamalambigai, late Nadrajasunderam, Sithamparapillai, (U.K), Balasubramaniam (Australia) Cremation at Kanatte cemetery 20th October. 3/1. Arethusia Lane, Wellawatte, Colombo.

SARAVANAMUTTU - Lily. Wife of late Dr. H. R. Saravanamuttu, mother of Rajan (U.K) late Rane, Kamalini, Sarojini, Padmini and Selvan (U.K), Burial at Ceylon Pentecostal, Mission Burial Grounds at Columbothurai on 20th October. 160, Old Perk Road. Chundikuli.

TISSEVERASINGHE - F.R. (Licenced surveyor) Husband of late Diamond

(Teacher), father of Jeeva. late Bertram, Angela (U.S.A.), Beanllab (Teacher GTMS Puthur), Lilian (U.S.A.), Godfrey (U.S.A.), Pilo (Canada), Fatta (U.S.A.), Lourdy (U.S.A.), and Joy (U.S.A.). Burial at Alayadicholai, Batticaloa on 19th October. 24, Corington's Road, Batticaloa.

MUTHU - S. M. (Proprietor, Dhurge Auto Hardware stores) - died 13-10-86. 11, Stanley Road, Jaffna.

SARAVANAMUTHU - Maheswaran (Colombo Motor Ltd.,) husband of Naguleswary. father of Raj Mohan (Rajan U.K.) and Damayanthie. Funeral on 20th October Late Maniagars Lane, Kokuvil East, Kokuvil.

KANDASAMY - Seevaratnam. Husband of late Viyalammah, father of Gnanambikai, Kamalambigai, Sri Rajalingam (Canada), Ranjanadevi (Germany) Cremation on 28th October. 31/1, Maheswari Road, off Peterson Lane, Colombo-6.

TAMPOE. W. M. S. - Film Producer. Husband of Meena, father of Robin, Indra and Dr. Devan (Australia) Funeral General cemetery on 29th October. 10, Dickmans Lane, Colombo-5.

MANICKAM - Selvaratnam, Station Master, Maradana, Colombo. Died on 29-10-86. Husband of Parameswari, father of Vasanthi, Anandi (Denmark), Vasanthan, and Shanthi.

THIAGARAJAH - Velautham. Retired Post Master. Husband of Nagaratnam, father of Pushparani, Devarani, Ganesharajah, and Jeyarajah. Cremation at Hindu cemetery, Borella on 24-10-86. Moolai, Chulipuram.

PARAMASIVAMPILLAI - Kandiahpillai, Attorney-at-law. Cremation at Kombayanmanal cemetery, Jaffna. 80, Palaly Road, Kanderamadam.

RAJIAH - Joe. Died under tragic circumstances in Spain Father of Santha. Funeral at Basingstoke. Hampshire, U. K.

NADESAN - Victoria. (Rtd. Teacher, Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya).

Wife of V. Nadesan (Lake House), mother of Gerard, George (West Germany), Gordon and Gerldine. Interment at Madampitiya cemetery on 8th November. 92/18, College Street, Kotahena.

RASENDRA - Nagalingam. Attorney-at-law. Husband of Pushparani, father of Gajendran, Jayendran (U.S.A.) and Sivendran. Cremation at General cemetery, Kanatte 10th November. 6/1, Fernando Road, Wellawatte.

RAJARATNAM R.S. - (Purser). Husband of Nallanayaki, father of Kyrie, (U.K.) Rajalekha (U.K.), Vithuran (U.K.). Cremation at Galkissa cemetery, Mr. Lavinia, 11th November. 25, Ramakrishna Road, Colombo.

JAYARATNAM - Ruby. Wife of late E. D. N. Jayaratnam, mother of Ruth (Maldives) and Sam (U.K.). Funeral 13th November at General cemetery, Matale. Wariyapola Estate, Matale.

NAMASIVAYAM - Maruthappa. (Rtd. Conservator of Forests). Husband of Tresilla, father of Dilkusha, Shalini (U.S.A.) and Rohanna. Cremated according to Hindu rites on 11th November in Bangalore, India. 21, Frankfort Place, Colombo-4.

RATNARAJAH - Vythilingam. Formerly of I. C. I. Husband of Ratnamathi, father of Nalayini and Skandakumar. Cremation at Kanatte on 15th November. 34, Pamankade Lane, Colombo-6.

PUNDIT V. RAMASAMY SARMA (Sarma Aiyar) Retired Tamil Lecturer, Jaffna Central College, Jaffna, passed away in his residence at Vanapatara, Tank View, Trichinopoly, India.

THANARAJAH - Aloy, of "Ranchi" Pandaterippu. Husband of late Violet, father of Joe. Burial at Kanatte on 22nd October. Block A-4, Govt. Flats, Colombo-4.

KADIRGAMER - Mano. (Lloyds Bank, London. Formerly of Bank of Ceylon) Husband of Pathmaranee, father of Ajit and Vina. Funeral in U.K. on 26th October. The Glen Village Way Pinner, Middlesex, HASSAX U.K. 10 E 'Anderson' Flats, Park Road, Colombo-5.